

REMARKS

The Office action mailed October 12, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-19 have been pending. Claim 16 is withdrawn. Claims 8 and 11-13 were objected to and claims 1-7, 9, 10, 14, 15 and 17-19 are rejected. By this Response, claims 1, 12, 13, and 15-17 have been amended. Claims 11 and 14 have been canceled. Support for amendments may be found in the specification and the claims as originally filed. No statutory new matter has been added. Therefore, reconsideration and entry of the claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter - Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 8 and 11-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, 14, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komura et al. (US 5,423,941) in view of Grimbergen et al. (US 6,712,927). The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komura et al. and Grimbergen et al. and further in view of Leung et al. (US 2003/0235993). The Examiner rejected claim 15, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komura et al. and Grimbergen et al. and further in view of Collins et al. (US 5,300,460).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the all the limitations of allowable claim 11, canceled claim 11 as being directed to redundant subject matter, and then amended claims 12 and 13 to depend from claim 1. Consequently, all of the claims, as amended, depend from claim 1 which is directed to allowable subject matter.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims, as amended, are unobvious and the rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) should properly be withdrawn.

Request for Interview

Applicants respectfully request either a telephonic or an in-person interview should there be any remaining issues.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 02-4300**, Attorney Docket No. **033082M172**.

Respectfully submitted,
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP



Michael A. Makuch
Reg. No. 32,263

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1850 M Street, NW, #800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 263-4300
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329